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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

Garrison at Drawski Mlyn

1. [REDACTED] the garrison at Drawski Mlyn (Dratzingmuehle - O 53/R 60) was composed entirely of "unreliable Poles" and elements referred to as "wyrzytki spoleczenstwa" (scum of the earth). The soldiers were quartered in tents; they suffered from the cold, their food was bad, and their training and exercises arduous.

2. [REDACTED]

Garrison at Warsaw

3. The non-commissioned officers school occupies a number of state buildings on ulica Mokotowska in Warsaw. During the period from September 1952 to April 1953, there were about 200 students in the school, and about 16 officers. Major RAKOWIECKI, a Pole, was commander of the school, and his first assistant and politruk was Lieutenant KOZIOL, also a Pole. The most important subject in the curriculum was political education, the theory being that the students, all of whom were second-class soldiers, must be re-educated into first-class soldiers. Soviet officers, on inspection visits to the school, examined the students mainly on their political knowledge; these officers occasionally wore Polish uniforms, and at other times appeared in Soviet uniforms.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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4. The students were trained in the use of the following weapons: 25X1A

- a. Short infantry rifles
- b. Soviet PPSH submachine guns
- c. Maxim and Degtyarev machine guns

5. The food was good, but monotonous, and the students tired of groats, which was a daily item. By order of the service officer, however, the meals were often interrupted by alarms, which meant that the students were obliged to interrupt their meals and hurry to the barracks to pack their equipment. Oftentimes the alarm was over by the time the soldiers reached their barracks, but they were not permitted to return to the dining room to finish their meals, and consequently were often hungry. Occasionally the soldiers would fill their pockets with bread, meat, or even potatoes on leaving the dining hall, but this practice was forbidden, and oftentimes pocket inspection was made: any soldier guilty of concealing food in his pockets was punished by deprivation of town permission for six weeks, penal exercises for as long as seven days, penal labor, or sometimes even three days imprisonment.

Garrison at Lodz

6. During the period April through August 1953 the garrison at Lodz consisted of the following units:

- a. A tank regiment, billeted in barracks on ulica Podgorska.
- b. An infantry regiment, stationed in the eastern sector of Lodz.
- 25X1C c. An independent labor battalion
- d. Various other military units. (Informant does not know to what arms of the service these military units belong, nor where they are billeted.)

7. The labor battalion, numbering about 430, was newly created in April 1953 for the purpose of training second-class soldiers for service in labor companies. The first recruits in the labor battalion belonged to the 1928-1933 year groups, and included former Volksdeutsche, former Eingedeutsche, conscripts whose parents had been in the Western countries during the war, or whose fathers served in the Polish Army during the war, as well as those individuals who returned to Poland from the West after the war. Captain Czeslaw DABROWSKI was commander of the labor battalion, and first assistant and politruk was Lt. KOWALSKI. These men, both Poles, came from a security corps unit (KBW), probably located in Lodz.

8. After a six-weeks training period, the majority of the conscripts were sent to the coal mines in Silesia, or elsewhere, to perform heavy labor. About 12% of the company, those soldiers who were judged to be politically reliable, were sent to work on military construction projects, i.e., fortifications, airfields, etc.

9. The second group of recruits for the labor battalion arrived in Lodz about the end of June, finished their training in mid-August, and were dispersed in the same manner as the first group. A third group was expected to begin training about the beginning of September.

10. During their six-weeks training period, recruits were not permitted to handle a real rifle; they were issued only wooden rifles, and the only time they were permitted to fire a real weapon was during infrequent sharp-shooting practice, when a rifle, carried to the shooting range and loaded by a non-com, was placed into their hands for firing. Training included the usual military drill and exercises for raw recruits, in addition to occasional field exercises. Six hours weekly were devoted to political education, and one and a half to two hours each evening were devoted to political discussions with the company politruk.

11. The rations were poor and inadequate: daily ration of black bread was 900 gr.; breakfast consisted of black coffee with a little sugar or saccharin; supper, of groats or flour soup, black coffee without sugar, and twice weekly, a small piece of lard. Lunch, which was the main meal of the day, twice weekly consisted of two dishes, i.e., soup, followed by a small piece of meat or fish with potatoes and groats.

12. The soldier's monthly pay is six zloty; they receive no cigarettes.

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